

Mental Health Planning Council Minutes  
December 5, 2007

31 attendees present

Call to order by President Jack Wood 10:00

Jo-Amrah McElroy distributed meeting dates and places.

Feb. 20, 2008 Va Assoc. of Community Service Boards

10128-B West Broad Street, Glen Allen, Va

April 16, 2008 Dept. Of Rehabilitation Services

8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, Va

June 18, 2008 Henrico CSB

10299 Woodman Road, Richmond, Va

Oct. Retreat Date and place to be determined

Dec. 3 Dept. of Rehabilitation Services

8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, Va

Jo-Amrah suggested setting meeting dates earlier to attempt standardizing meeting location. She reported it being very difficult to locate free meeting space for a group this size.

Members updated the council about recent activities in which they have been involved. These included the State Board (Mary McGowen), the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform and its taskforces (several members), the System Leadership Council of DMHMRSAS (Jack Wood and Brian Parrish), the Coalition (NAMI Virginia and others), and a conference on multiculturalism (several members.).

The Council was asked for volunteers to serve on an advisory committee for a grant to reduce seclusion and restraint in Central State Hospital and Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. There being no council members who had been forensic patients, two council members without forensic experience volunteered to participate.

Election of new officers held. There were no nominations from the floor. Results for the Mental Health Planning Council 2008 calendar year are as follows:

President Alison Hymes

VP Adults Lisa Moore

VP Children to be held jointly Dr. Betty Etzler and Irene Bolten-Walker

Secretary James Johnson

Mid-morning snack and Lunch was provided by new caterers. Both organizations are supportive of people returning to work in the community. The mid-morning snack was provided by Breadwinners and lunch by Positive Vibes. Unanimous decision to continue having them cater future meeting but alternate snack and lunch.

Discussion of funding was held. James Martinez was to have presented but was unable to attend the meeting. Jo-Amrah McElroy presented in his place.

Discussion of priorities was held. Quality of care was discussed, data and outcome statistics collection was discussed, lack of consensus within the council on legislative priorities was acknowledged as a reason not to focus on specific legislation as a council, standardization of CSB services was discussed, addition of new (regional?) assistant commissioner in DMHMRSAS was mentioned. It was suggested by Lisa Moore that the Council make itself more visible by writing a quarterly letter to stakeholders on the activities and concerns of the council. It was also suggested that the council focus on areas of consensus rather than areas of division and that we have a presentation on standardization and what it will mean to CSB's at a future meeting as well as presentations on other new priorities of the Department including multi-culturalism and local partnerships.

Meeting adjourned .

Next meeting February 20, 2008 Va Assoc. of Community Service Boards  
10128-B West Broad Street, Glen Allen, Va

Minutes – Jo-Amrah McElroy 12/11/07